

# **Drug Related Information Monthly Report - April 2019 Fact Sheet**



**Research Division  
National Dangerous Drugs Control Board**

## **Introduction**

Currently, drug prevalence, drug related offences and drug related offenders who were arrested by Sri Lankan law enforcement agencies are increasing. Studying about reported drug related arrests and treatment data is very helpful to identify the current trends and patterns on drug abuse. Therefore, the research division has introduced the Drug Abuse Monitoring System (DAMS). DAMS is a computerized information system, which collects information on persons arrested for drug related offences and persons seeking treatment for drug use. This report is prepared by using recorded data of DAMS in March in 2019 and April in 2019 and it can be used to get basic information on persons arrested for drug offences.

## **Objectives**

The objectives are to document current trends and patterns on drug related arrests and treatment for policy making and to disseminate knowledge on current trends to the NDDCB staff and other related agencies for drug control, planning of prevention, treatment and outreach programmes.

## **Results and Findings**

According to the recorded figures, 4420 persons were arrested for drug related offences during March and April in 2019. Among these arrestees, 2822 persons were arrested in March and 1598 persons were arrested in April. It was 43% decrease in April with compare to March in 2019.

## **District**

By considering the arrested data in April, the highest number of persons, 459, was reported from Colombo district. Gampaha, Puttalam, Kurunegala and Anuradhapura districts were recorded as the next highest number of drug related arrestees respectively. 21 districts were highlighted with decreased number of arrested persons in April with compared to March and highest decreasing percentage, 85%, was reported from Matale district. 3 districts showed an increase in April with compared to March in 2019 and highest increasing percentage was indicated in Batticaloa district. 19 persons were arrested from Trincomalee district in March and it was same in April. However, considerable numbers of arrests were reported in every district during the considered period and it was indicated the progress of supply and demand of drugs in Sri Lanka.

**Gender**

The majority, 98%, of the arrested persons in April was males and rest was females. By comparing the data in March and April, the majorities were males in both months and figures were same.

**Age**

60% of arrested persons in April belonged to 20-34 age category. There were significant numbers of arrested persons in all other age categories. By comparing age categories of arrested persons in March with April, it can be clearly identified that there were only small variations within the proportions of each categories.

**Marital Status**

49.12% of the arrested persons in April were married and 50.75% were unmarried. Rest of the arrested persons in April was divorced. By considering the arrested persons in March, 46.81% of them were unmarried and 52.62% were married while rest of them were divorced, seperated and widowed. The data highlighted that the percentage of unmarried arrested persons in April was greater than the percentage of married persons and it was vice versa in March.

**Education**

Although 3% of arrested persons in April never been to school, there were 41.6% of the arrested persons who had been obtained Ordinary Level education qualification. Also, 6.7% of the arrested persons in April had completed advanced level. There were no any arrested graduates or professionals in April. By considering the arrested persons in March, it can be clearly identified that there were significant numbers of persons for each educational category except category of professional qualification.

## **Ethnicity and Religion**

76.5% of the arrested persons in April were Sinhalese, 10% were Tamils, 8.9% were Moors and rest of the persons belonged to Malay, Burgher and other ethnicity categories. By comparing the ethnicities of arrested persons in March and April, the majorities of the arrested persons in each of these two months were Sinhalese but considerable number of arrested persons from other ethnicities such as Tamils and Moors were also recorded. These data showed that the percentage of Tamils was greater than the percentage of Moors in March and it was vice versa in April.

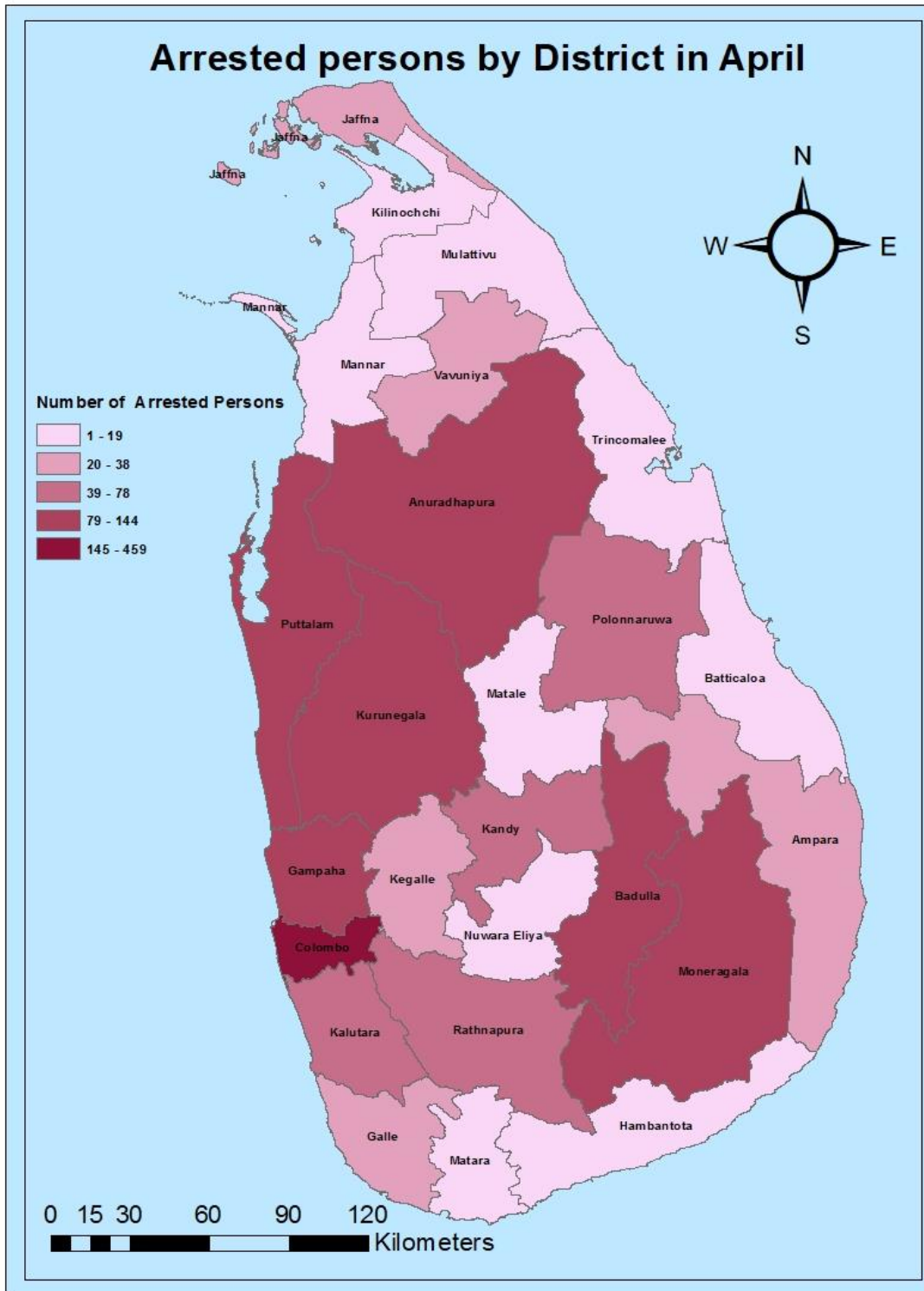
72.47% of the arrested persons in April were Buddhists, 12.77% were Islam, 9.14% were Hindus and 5.57% were Christians. By comparing the religions of arrestees in March with April, it can be identified that distributions of religions of arrestees in March and April were significantly similar and the majority of the arrested persons was Buddhists but there were arrested persons belonged to other religions as well. Therefore, it indicated that religion and ethnicity were not significant factors for engaging the drug related offences.

## **Occupation**

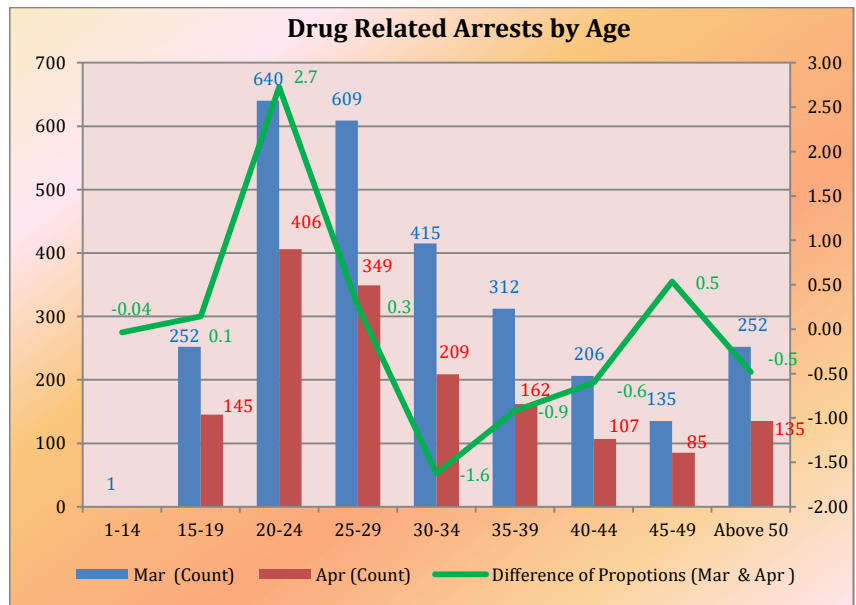
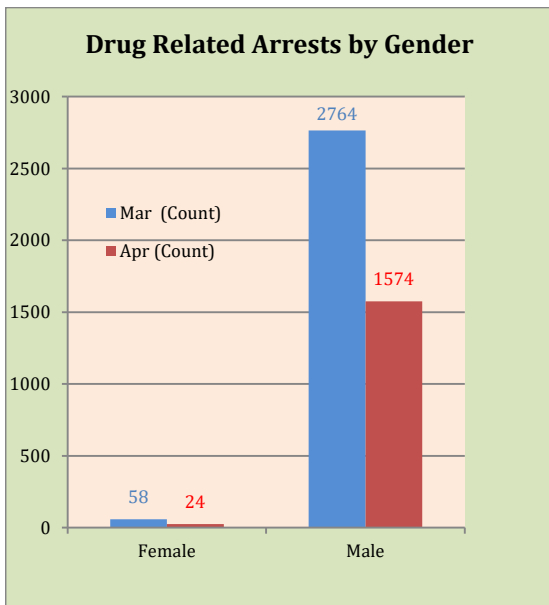
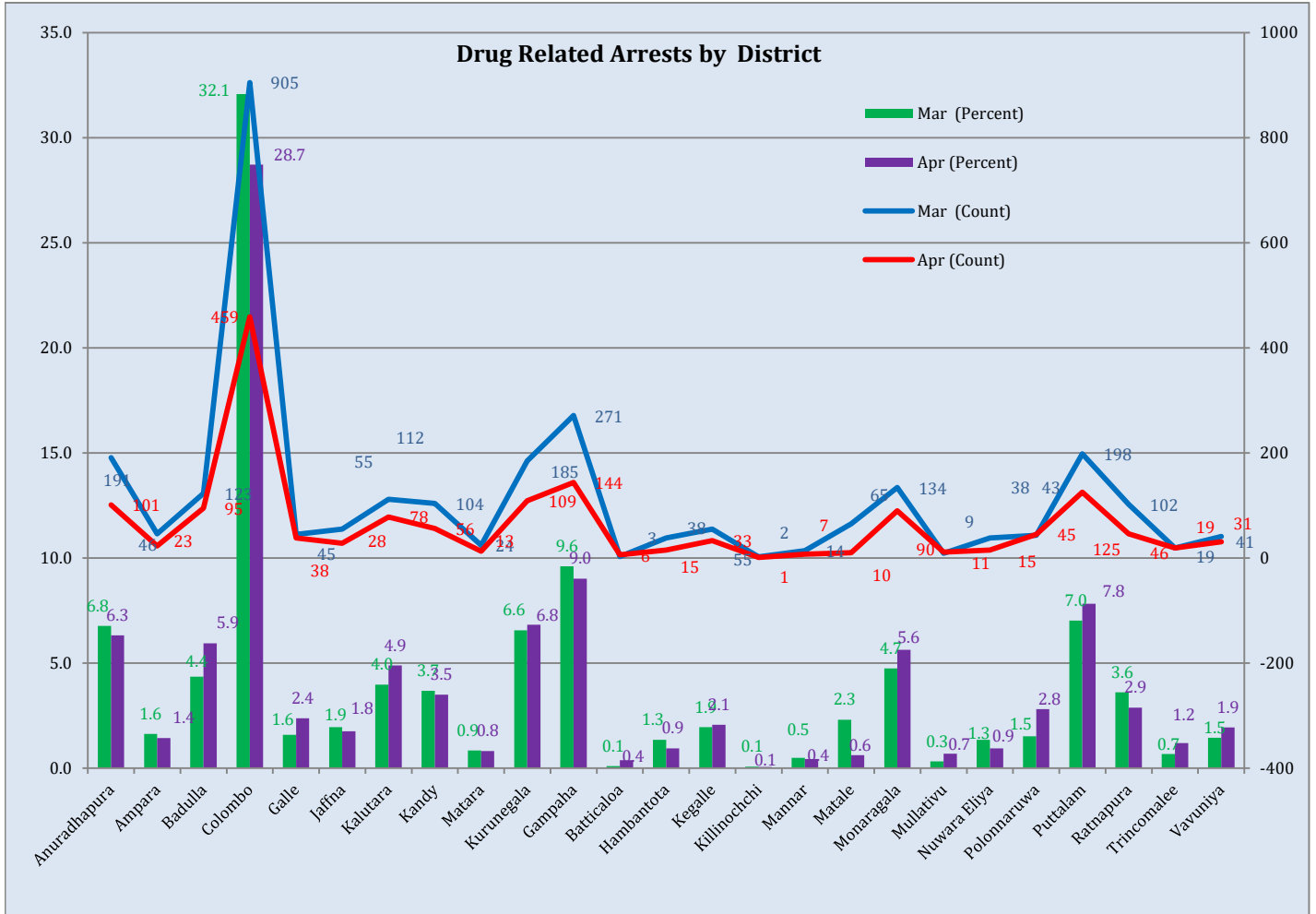
From the related data in April, 33.4% of arrestees were labourers, 12.2% were farmers, 7.4% were unemployed, 4.5% were self-employed, 0.6% was students and 1.8% were professionals. By comparing the distributions of occupation of arrestees between March and April, it can be clearly identified that ratio of labourers was the highest from ratios of each occupation category which were engaging by arrestees in each months and in addition some of the arrestees were working as drivers, fishermen, businessmen etc. However, there were small fluctuations in ratios of every occupation which were being engaged by arrestees in April with compared to March.

## **Type of Drugs**

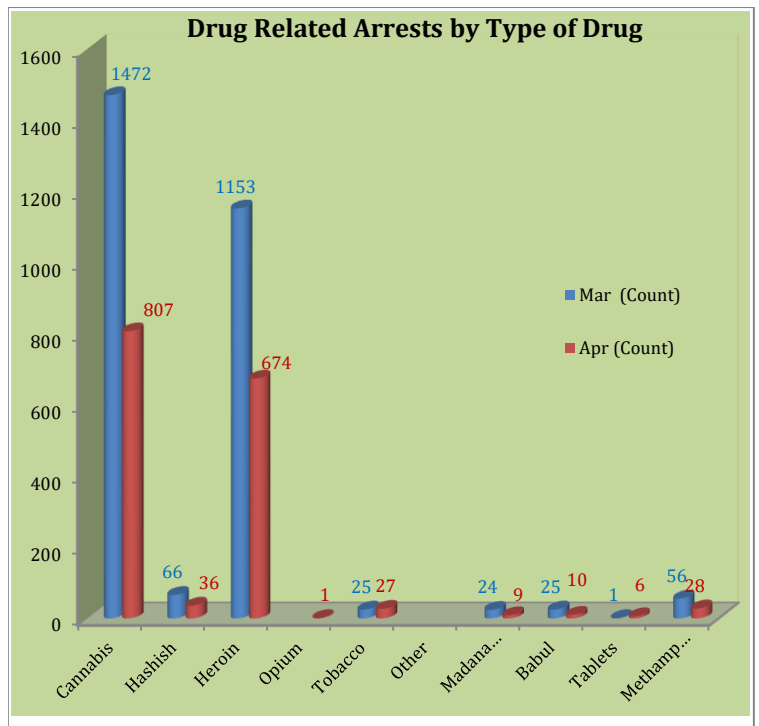
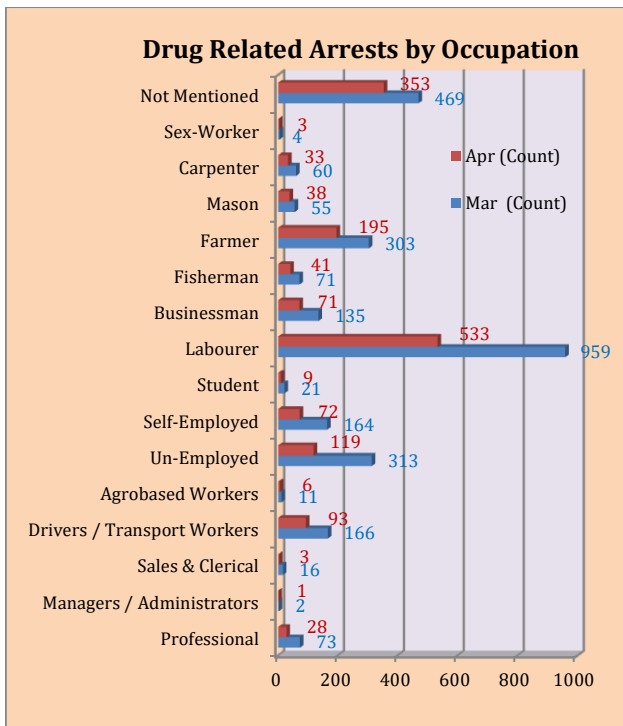
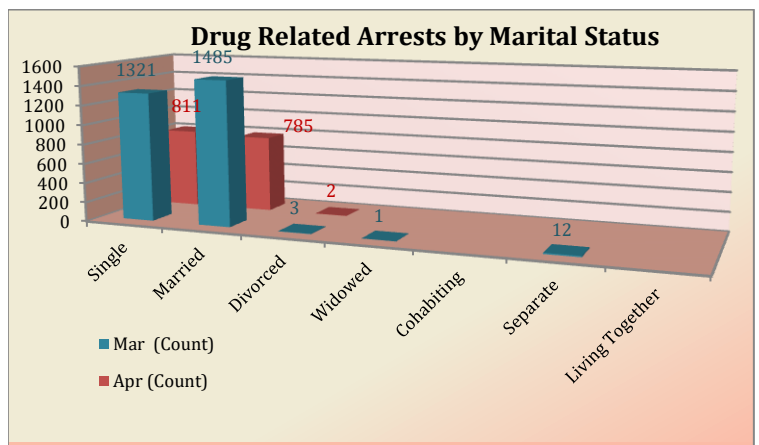
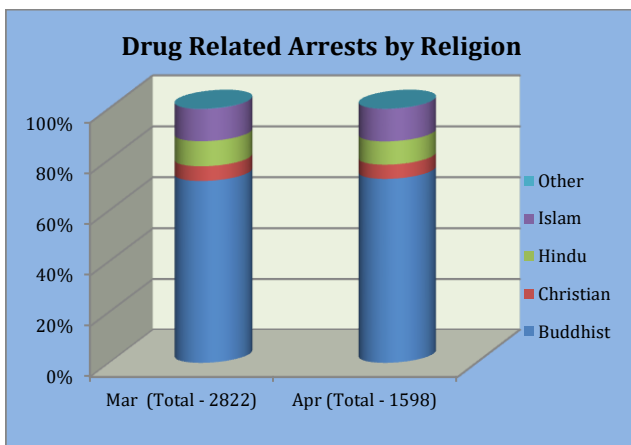
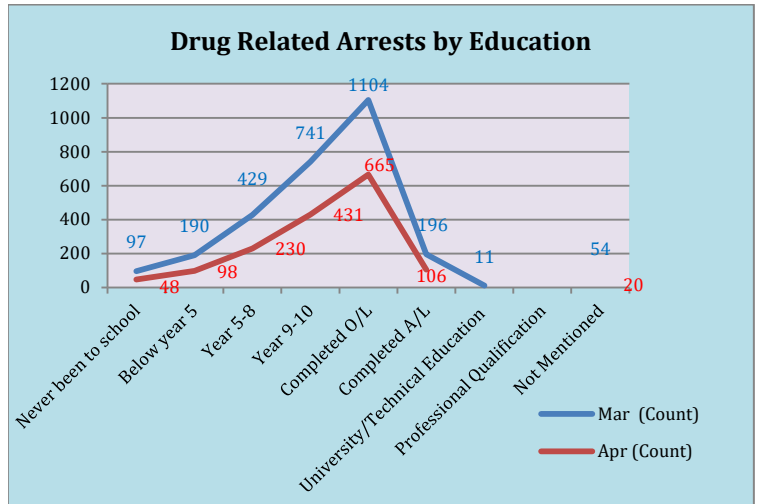
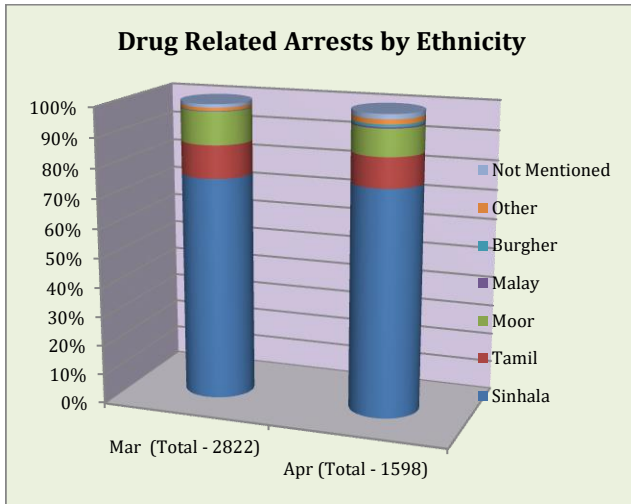
Cannabis was the most reported drug, which was involved in drug related offences in March as well as April, but the cannabis related offences had been decreased from 52.16% to 50.5% in April with compared to March. Heroin was the next highest abused drug. 40.86% and 42.18% of arrestees in March and April were engaging in heroin related offence respectively. Hashish, babul, madanamodaka, tobacco, opium, methamphetamine (Ice) and tablets were the rest of the drugs which were involved in drug related offences.



(Source - Drug Abuse Monitoring System in March - April 2019)



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